

worth recording. It is not possible to begin to do justice to this paper in the space at our disposal. Everybody who is at all interested in the side of bird study illustrated by this paper ought to possess a copy. We hope that there are plenty of them to be had. L. J.

On the Habits and Behavior of the Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus* Pont. By R. M. Strong. From "The Auk," Vol. XXXI, January and April, 1914. Pp. 23-49, 178-199.

This paper is based on studies carried on among the breeding colonies of these gulls upon the islands in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The limits of this review preclude anything like an adequate treatment of this excellent paper. The field studies are supplemented by painstaking investigations in the laboratories of the University of Chicago. The pictures—half-tones from photographs—are carefully chosen and each one has its peculiar contribution to make to the paper. There is little left to be desired in the field which this paper covers. If a similar study of the winter habits of these gulls could be as carefully done we should then know about all of the life history. L. J.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

A Further Study of the Home Life of the Brown Thrasher—*Toxostoma rufum* Linn. By Ira N. Gabrielson. From the Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science for 1913. Pp. 299-304.

A Heronry near Indianapolis. Pp. 57-58.

Further notes on Indiana Birds. Pp. 59-65.

Birds that Destroy Grapes. Pp. 53-55.

All by Amos W. Butler. From Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. 43.

Use and Value of Wild Birds to Texas Farmers and Stockmen and Fruit and Truck Growers. Compiled by H. P. Attwater. 1914. Texas Department of Agriculture Bulletin. May-June, 1914. No. 37.

Birds in Relation to the Alfalfa Weevil. By E. R. Kalmbach, Assistant Biologist. Bulletin of the U. S. Dept. of Agri. No. 107.

The Ontogeny of the White Ibis; Specialization of Tail Down in Ducks; Effect of Postponed Moults in Certain Passerine Birds; Preliminary Pheasant Studies. By C. William Beebe, Curator of Birds. Zoological Scientific Contributions of the New York Zoological Society, Vol. 1, Nos. 12-15.

The Extermination of America's Bird Fauna. By R. W. Shufeldt. Separataftryk Af, "Nyt Magazin for Naturvidenskaberne." Christiania. 1914.

Osteology of the Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*). By R. W. Shufeldt. From "The Auk," Vol. XXXI, No. 3, July, 1914. Pp. 358-362.

Notes on the Louisiana Clapper Rail (*Rallus crepitans saturatus*) in Texas. By George Finlay Simmons. From "The Auk," Vol. XXXI, No. 3, July, 1914. Pp. 363-384.

ORNITHOLOGICAL JOURNALS RECEIVED.

- The Auk, Vol. XXXI, April and July, 1914.
 Bird-Lore, Vol. XVI, Nos. 2, 3, 4. 1914.
 Bluebird, Vol. VI, Nos. 10 and 11. 1914.
 The Condor, Vol. XVI, Nos. 2, 3, 4. 1914.
 The Oregon Sportsman, Vol. II, Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7. 1914.
 The Oriole, Vol. II, Nos. 1, 2. 1914.
 The Taxidermist, Vol. 2, No. U. 1914.
 Our Feathered Friends, Vol. I, No. 4. 1914.

CORRESPONDENCE

A REJOINDER.

BY T. C. STEPHENS.

There appears in a recent number of the Auk* a criticism by W. L. M. of some work which has appeared from time to time by students of the Macbride (Iowa) Lakeside Laboratory. Inasmuch as the present writer is largely responsible for this work, and inasmuch as similar work may appear in the future, it becomes a duty to ascertain to what extent the criticisms are grounded.

The criticism is directed wholly at such parts of the work as relate to the food of nestling birds, a field which seems to be guarded zealously by the critic as the peculiar domain of the Biological Survey.

Let us examine specifically some of the objections raised. He charges the workers with "over-enthusiasm" (a statement rather too vague to detain us), and goes on to say that it is a grievous fault "to publish identifications that could not possibly have been made under the circumstances."

Truly, this is a bold and sweeping accusation. Upon what does our rash reviewer base his confidence? W. L. M. further says, "Now the positive identification of a mosquito, and the distinguishing of the house and stable flies, two obscurely marked species of the same family, require far closer and more definite observation than could possibly be made on specimens in process of being fed to nestling birds."

This criticism is directed at Gabrielson's work on the catbird (Wils. Bull., XXV, Dec., 1913, pp. 179-180), where, in Table III, 99 "Flies" were recorded as being fed to the young over a period of ten days; and in which the text says "The flies were mostly fish flies, though house and stable flies were also noted."

* The Auk, XXXI, July, 1914, pp. 420-421. "W. L. M." presumably stands for W. L. McAtee, of the Biological Survey, but inasmuch as his name does not appear on the editorial staff, and not having been introduced by the Editor of The Auk, the writer regrets to be compelled to refer, in the present note, simply to the initials as signed.